



Sumac

ash, birch, maple, sycamore, cottonwood and sassafras.

The red and purple colors, though, aren't hiding in the leaves. They're newly created in the fall when sugars are

made during warm days, then trapped in the leaves during cool nights. The trapped sugars change chemically into anthocyanins, which appear red and purple.

The more sunshine during the day, the more red color is created. That's why shaded leaves will be less red than those that get lots of sun. If the weather is cloudy and the nights stay warm, there won't be as much vivid red in such trees as maple, sweetgum, oak and dogwood.



Sweetgum

Other factors, in addition to contrasting temperatures, also affect fall color. Trees that don't get enough water during the growing season may just drop their leaves quickly before they color. And if it gets very cold, that kills the leaves, too, before they have time for a fall display.

In good seasons, Missouri's fall color may slowly change from mid-September to a peak in mid-October. By late October, the colors fade and the incredible show is gone.

For travel information, call

Branson Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce
417/334-4136

Cape Girardeau Convention & Visitors Bureau
573/335-1631 or 800-777-0068

Clarksville Visitor Center
573/242-3132

Lake of the Ozarks Convention & Visitors Bureau
573/348-1599 or 800-386-5253

Hannibal Visitors & Convention Bureau
573/221-2477 or 866-263-4825

Hermann Welcome Center
800-932-8687

Jefferson City Convention Center & Visitors Bureau
573/632-2820 or 800-769-4183

Joplin Convention & Visitors Bureau
417/625-4789 or 800-657-2534

Lake Wappapello
573/222-8562

Star Hill Prairie Art Center (Rockport)
660/744-5800 or 1-888-445-6605

Rolla Area Chamber of Commerce
573/364-3577

Springfield Convention & Visitors Bureau
417/881-5300

St. Joseph Convention & Visitors Bureau
816/233-6688 or 800-785-0360

Weston Chamber of Commerce
816/640-2909 or 888-635-7457



Follow the Show of Missouri's Fall Colors



Sugar Maple

Visit www.missouriconservation.org to find out when colors peak around the state.

Why Leaves Change Color



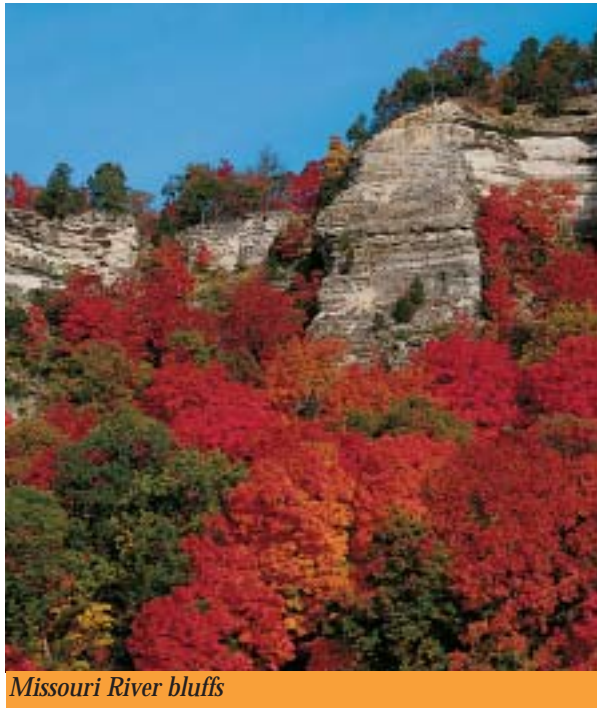
Maple

No, Jack Frost is not the culprit. Some leaves change color weeks before the first icy nights. What's really going on is a bit more complex.

Tree leaves contain cells that create food for the whole tree. Those cells use chlorophyll, which gives leaves their green color. The chlorophyll absorbs energy from the sun to turn water and carbon dioxide into sugars and starches—food for the tree.

Even though green is what you see during the growing season, there also are hidden colors in the leaves. Those are carotenoids. They're the chrystalline color pigments that give yellow and orange to plants such as carrots, corn and daffodils.

In the fall, shorter days and cooler nights means there's less energy for food-making. The chlorophyll starts to break down. The green disappears and the yellow carotenoids can finally be seen in such trees as hickory,



Missouri River bluffs

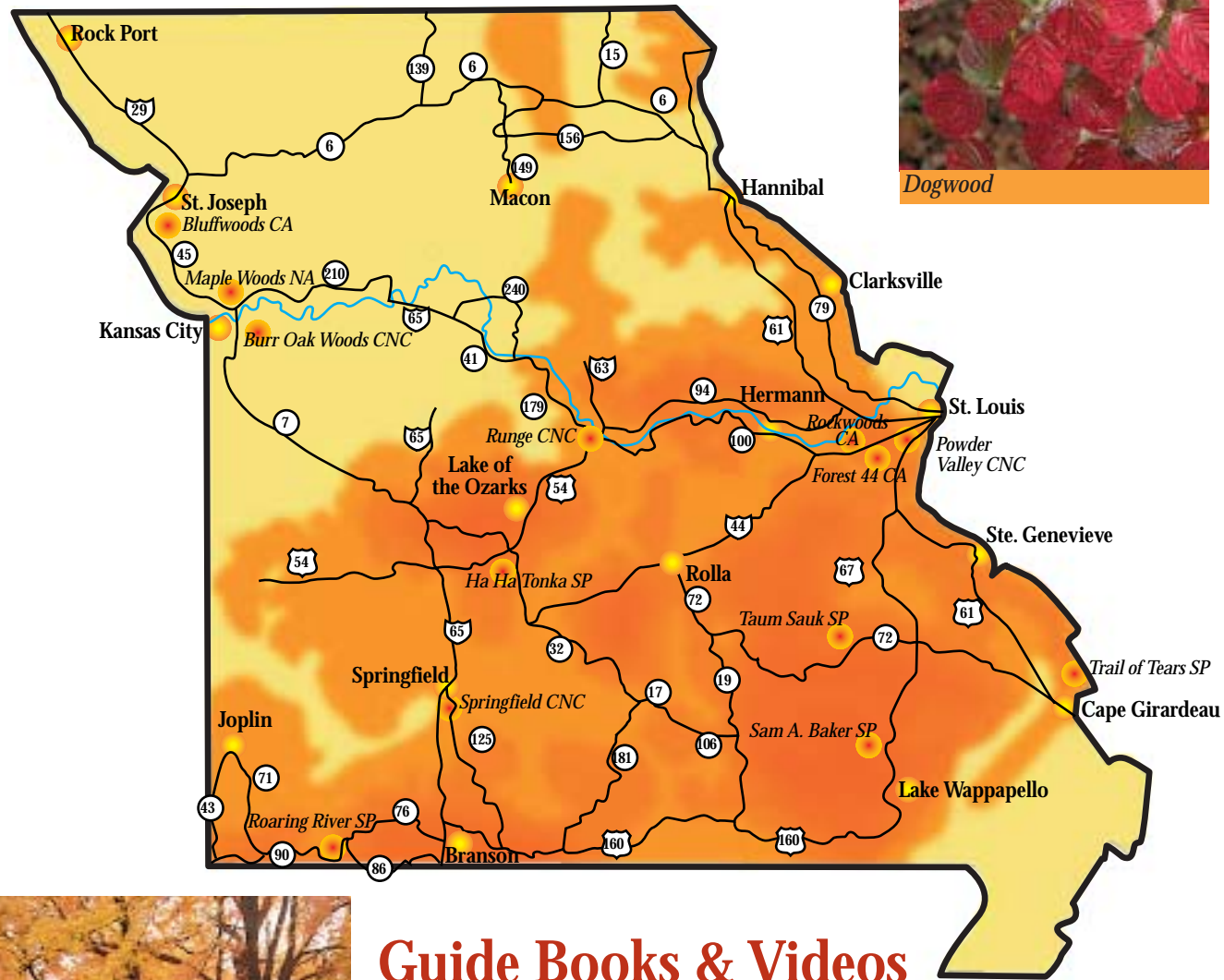
Map Legend

Although this area is Missouri's farming region, scattered woodlots and forested stream valleys are the places to see fall color. A variety of trees such as oak, hickory, maple, ash and cottonwood produce an interesting mix of colors.

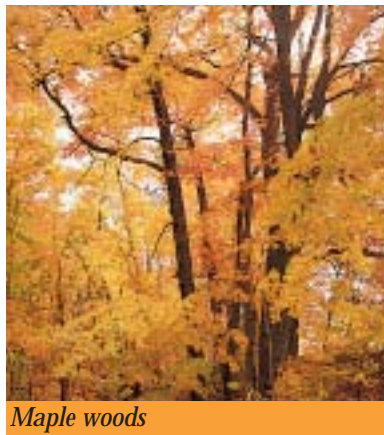
Rolling hills, scenic views and hardwood forests highlight this region's natural beauty. In an area that is about half forests and half farmland, it's easy to find a route to see Missouri's fall colors.

Rugged hills, bluffs, clear streams and a mix of hardwood, pine and red cedar forests are typical in this part of the state. Nearly any route you choose will be pleasing.

Routes with a View



Dogwood



Maple woods

Guide Books & Videos

For information on trails and other facilities on conservation areas around the state, visit the Conservation Department's Website at www.missouriconservation.org. The Department also offers books that will help you to enjoy fall colors and learn more about nature. To purchase *Conservation Trails: A Guide to Missouri Department of Conservation Hiking Trails*, *Trees of Missouri*, *A Paddler's Guide to Missouri*, *Kansas City WildLands*, or the videos *Natural Adventures Close to Home: St. Louis* and *Natural Adventures Close to Home: Kansas City*, visit www.mdcnatureshop.com or call toll free 1-877-521-8632.

Autumn Strolls

Whether you want a short walk or a long hike, you can enjoy the pleasures of fall on one of Missouri's many trails to nature.

Conservation Department Nature Centers

Runge, Jefferson City
573/526-5544 ♿

Burr Oak Woods, Blue Springs
816/228-3766 ♿

Powder Valley, St. Louis County
314/301-1500 ♿

Springfield, Springfield
417/888-4237 ♿

Conservation Department Areas

Forest 44, St. Louis County
636/458-2236 ♿

Rockwoods, St. Louis County
636/458-2236 ♿

Bluffwoods, Buchanan County
816/271-3100 ♿

Maple Woods Natural Area,
Clay County
816/655-6250

Department of Natural Resources State Parks

Ha Ha Tonka, Camden County
573/346-2986 ♿

Sam A. Baker, Wayne County
573/856-4411 ♿

Taum Sauk, Iron County
573/546-2450 ♿

Johnson Shut-Ins, Reynolds County
573/546-2450

Katy Trail, Henry, Pettis, Cooper, Howard, Boone, Callaway, Montgomery, Warren and St. Charles counties
660/882-8196 ♿

Roaring River, Barry County
417/847-2539

Trail of Tears,
Cape Girardeau County
573/334-1711

Mark Twain National Forest

573/364-4621